

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA), Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health**, issued the following statement regarding the formation of President Obama's Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research.

"Used correctly, comparative effectiveness research has the potential to help patients and their doctors make better informed treatment decisions and increase efficiency within our health care system. But the way the Administration is proceeding treads on dangerous ground. The United Kingdom is currently using comparative effectiveness research to deny access to needed treatments and the results have been horrific. Instead of helping doctors and patients, comparative effectiveness research has turned into a tool used by government bureaucrats to deny access to life-saving procedures and medicines if they are deemed 'too expensive.'

"At the President's urging, Congressional Democrats included over \$1.1 billion in the so-called stimulus to fund comparative effectiveness research. This research needs to be conducted openly and there must be guarantees that the findings will not be used as a reason to deny needed medical treatments. But Congressional Democrats rejected these safeguards. In the coming weeks, I will be introducing legislation to ensure that patients are protected.

"This is yet another incremental move by supporters of government run health care to take medical decisions out of the hands of doctors and patients and put them in the hands of bureaucrats. You only have to take a look at the roster of people the President has appointed to this government board. There is not one practicing physician or patient advocate to be seen, only government bureaucrats. Given the track record of similar agencies in other countries, it is imperative that we include the two most important people in the health care system: the patient and his or her doctor."